

Substituted 1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroisoquinoline Derivatives

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The present invention relates to novel substituted 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives of the general formula (I) and their use as pharmaceuticals. The invention also concerns related aspects including processes for the preparation of the compounds, pharmaceutical compositions containing one or more compounds of the general formula (I), and especially their use as orexin receptor antagonists.

Orexins (orexin A or OX-A and orexin B or OX-B) are novel neuropeptides found in 1998 by two research groups, orexin A is a 33 amino acid peptide and orexin B is a 28 amino acid peptide (Sakurai T. *et al.*, Cell, 1998, 92, 573-585). Orexins are produced in discrete neurons of the lateral hypothalamus and bind to the G-protein-coupled receptors (OX₁ and OX₂ receptors). The orexin-1 receptor (OX₁) is selective for OX-A, and the orexin-2 receptor (OX₂) is capable to bind OX-A as well as OX-B. Orexins are found to stimulate food consumption in rats suggesting a physiological role for these peptides as mediators in the central feedback mechanism that regulates feeding behaviour (Sakurai T. *et al.*, Cell, 1998, 92, 573-585). On the other hand, it was also observed that orexins regulate states of sleep and wakefulness opening potentially novel therapeutic approaches to narcolepsy as well as insomnia and other sleep disorders (Chemelli R.M. *et al.*, Cell, 1999, 98, 437-451).

Orexin receptors are found in the mammalian brain and may have numerous implications in pathologies such as depression; anxiety; addictions, obsessive compulsive disorder; affective neurosis; depressive neurosis; anxiety neurosis; dysthymic disorder; mood disorder; sexual dysfunction; psychosexual dysfunction; sex disorder; schizophrenia; manic depression; delirium; dementia; severe mental retardation and dyskinesias such as Huntington's disease and Tourette syndrome; eating disorders; sleep disorders; cardiovascular diseases, diabetes; appetite/taste disorders; vomiting/nausea; asthma; Parkinson's disease; Cushing's syndrome/disease; basophil adenoma; prolactinoma; hyperprolactinemia; hypopituitarism; hypophysis tumour/adenoma; hypothalamic diseases; inflammatory bowel disease; gastric dyskinesia; gastric ulcers; Froehlich's syndrome; hypophysis diseases, hypothalamic hypogonadism; Kallman's syndrome (anosmia, hyposmia); functional or psychogenic amenorrhea; hypopituitarism; hypothalamic hypothyroidism; hypothalamic-adrenal dysfunction; idiopathic hyperprolactinemia; hypothalamic disorders of growth hormone